

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and new claims 24-47 respectively are presented therefor, and further present the claims in accordance with USA practice under 35 USC 112, and eliminate multiple-dependent form claims.

No multiple-dependent claim fees should apply in this application.

The specification has been amended for formal improvement to comply with USA practice and to correct informalities.

An abstract is presented on a separate sheet.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee as of the filing date, and to provide an action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael Abel, et al

by:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 30, 2006.

Dated: May 30, 2006

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